This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for defining asset classes in a computer readable digital library coupled to a user interface and at least one application program to search heterogenous objects, comprising:

defining at least one asset class to include at least one attribute;

defining attributes for each asset class to have [[an]] attribute object ~~type~~ types, wherein the attribute object types for the defined attributes comprise at least one database object type and a text file type;

defining the attribute object type to indicate one of a plurality of different data structure formats that are searchable through ~~separate~~ the at least one application ~~programs~~ program, wherein the attribute object types in one asset class are implemented in different data structure formats;

generating an asset object instance for each asset class; and

~~generating~~ adding information [[in]] to the asset object instance on a file location of attribute objects ~~providing the attributes~~ for the ~~generated~~ asset object instance[[,]]; and

~~wherein the application programs are used to search attribute objects when querying~~ using the at least one application program to query asset object instances on an attribute value by searching attribute objects ~~for attributes~~ of the asset object instances for the queried attribute value.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating asset object instances further comprises:

generating attribute information into the asset object instance for at least one attribute object of the asset object instance.

3.   (Canceled)

4.　　(Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, wherein ~~a third~~ the attribute object types ~~type comprises a multimedia file, wherein one attribute is defined to have an attribute object~~ include ~~comprising at least one~~ a multimedia file.

5.　　(Canceled)

6.　　(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one attribute is defined to include a plurality of sub-attributes, wherein sub-attributes are defined to include a sub-attribute name, a sub-attribute value type, and a sub-attribute file location, wherein generating asset object instances further comprises:

generating values in the generated asset object instance for the sub-attribute name, the sub-attribute value type, and the sub-attribute file location for a sub-attribute object.

7.　　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one attribute object type comprises a relationship attribute type indicating that the attribute object comprises a relationship attribute object defining an association of a first and second asset types of a first and second asset classes, respectively, wherein each asset class has an asset type.

8.　　(Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the relationship attribute includes a relationship location indicating a file location of the relationship attribute object.

9.　　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the relationship attribute object comprises a database table, wherein a first column in the database table is for unique identifiers of instances of the first asset type and a second column in the database table is for unique identifiers of instances of the second asset type, wherein the unique identifier in the first column of one row in the database table identifies one instance of the first asset type that is associated with one instance of the second asset type identified by the unique identifier in the second column of the row.

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10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the definition of each attribute for each asset is implemented in at least one computer data structure.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the definition of each attribute for an asset class is implemented in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document, wherein each defined attribute for an asset class comprises a tagged element in the XML document and wherein information for each attribute is embedded in at least one tagged attribute of the tagged element for the attribute.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the definition of the attribute objects for each asset object instance is maintained in tagged elements of an XML file

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the asset classes provide information on a film production, wherein the defined asset classes include a movie asset class, a scene asset class, a background asset class, and a character asset class, wherein the attribute objects provide information on instances of movie, scene, background, and character assets.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

defining an additional attribute for one asset class after an instance for the asset class has been generated, wherein defining the additional attribute does not affect instances of the asset class generated before the additional attribute for the asset class was defined.

15.   (Previously Presented) A system for maintaining information, comprising:
a computer readable digital library;
a user interface coupled to the digital library;
at least one application program coupled to the digital library to search heterogeneous objects;
means for defining at least one asset in the digital library class to include at least one attribute;

means for defining attributes for each asset class to have [[an]] attribute object type types, wherein the attribute object types for the defined attributes comprise at least one database object type and a text file type;

means for defining the attribute object type to indicate one of a plurality of different data structure formats that are searchable through separate the at least one application programs program, wherein the attribute object types in one asset class are implemented in different data structure formats;

means for generating an asset object instance for each asset class; and

means for generating adding information [[in]] to the asset object instance on a file location of attribute objects providing the attributes for the generated asset object instance[[,]]; and

wherein the application programs are used to search attribute objects when querying using the at least one application program to query asset object instances on an attribute value by searching attribute objects for attributes of the asset object instances for the queried attribute value.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the means for generating asset object instances further performs:

generating attribute information into the asset object instance for at least one attribute object of the asset object instance.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[17]] 15, wherein a third the object types type comprises a multimedia file, wherein one attribute is defined to have an attribute object comprising at least one include a multimedia file.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein one attribute object type comprises a relationship attribute type indicating that the attribute object comprises a relationship

attribute object defining an association of a first and second asset types of a first and second asset classes, respectively, wherein each asset class has an asset type.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the relationship attribute includes a relationship location indicating a file location of the relationship attribute object.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the definition of each attribute for an asset class is implemented in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document, wherein each defined attribute for an asset class comprises a tagged element in the XML document and wherein information for each attribute is embedded in at least one tagged attribute of the tagged element for the attribute.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

means for defining an additional attribute for one asset class after an instance for the asset class has been generated, wherein the means for defining the additional attribute does not affect instances of the asset class generated before the additional attribute for the asset class was defined.

23.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including code for defining asset classes in a digital library coupled to a user interface and at least one application program to search heterogenous objects, wherein the code causes operations comprising:

defining at least one asset class to include at least one attribute;

defining attributes for each asset class to have [[an]] attribute object type types, wherein the attribute object types for the defined attributes comprise at least one database object type and a text file type;

defining the attribute object type to indicate one of a plurality of different data structure formats that are searchable through separate the at least one application programs program, wherein the attribute object types in one asset class are implemented in different data structure formats;

generating an asset object instance for each asset class; and

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~~generating~~ adding information [[in]] to the asset object instance on a file location of attribute objects ~~providing the attributes~~ for ~~the generated~~ asset object instance[[,]]; and

~~wherein the application programs are used to search attribute objects when querying~~ using the at least one application program to query asset object instances on an attribute value for attributes of the asset object instances.

24.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein generating asset object instances further comprises:

generating attribute information into the asset object instance for at least one attribute object of the asset object instance.

25.   (Cancelled)

26.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim [[25]] 23, wherein a ~~third~~ the attribute object types ~~type comprises a multimedia file, wherein one attribute is defined to have an attribute object~~ include ~~comprising at least one~~ a multimedia file.

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein one attribute object type comprises a relationship attribute type indicating that the attribute object comprises a relationship attribute object defining an association of a first and second asset types of a first and second asset classes, respectively, wherein each asset class has an asset type.

29.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the relationship attribute includes a relationship location indicating a file location of the relationship attribute object.

30.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the definition of each attribute for an asset class is implemented in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document,

wherein each defined attribute for an asset class comprises a tagged element in the XML document and wherein information for each attribute is embedded in at least one tagged attribute of the tagged element for the attribute.

31. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, further comprising:

defining an additional attribute for one asset class after an instance for the asset class has been generated, wherein defining the additional attribute does not affect instances of the asset class generated before the additional attribute for the asset class was defined.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium including data structures for maintaining information on asset classes in a digital library coupled to a user interface and at least one application program to search heterogenous objects, comprising:

a definition of at least one asset class including at least one attribute;

a definition of attributes for each asset class having [[an]] attribute object ~~type~~ types, wherein the attribute object types for the defined attributes comprise at least one database object type and a text file type;

a definition of the attribute object type indicating one of a plurality of different data structure formats that are searchable through ~~separate~~ the at least one application ~~programs~~ program, wherein the attribute object types in one asset class are implemented in different data structure formats;

an asset object instance for each asset class; and

information in the asset object instance on a file location of attribute objects ~~providing the attributes~~ for the generated asset object instance, wherein the at least one application ~~programs~~ program is [[are]] used to ~~search attribute objects when querying~~ query asset object instances on an attribute value by searching attribute objects ~~for attributes~~ of the asset object instances for the queried attribute value.

33. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the asset object instances further comprise:

attribute information for at least one attribute object of the asset object instance.

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34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim [[34]] 32, wherein a third the attribute object types type comprises a multimedia file, wherein the definition for one attribute indicates an attribute object include comprising at least one a multimedia file.

36.   (Canceled)

37.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein one defined attribute type comprises a relationship attribute type indicating that the attribute object comprises a relationship attribute object defining an association of a first and second asset types of a first and second asset classes, respectively, wherein each asset class has an asset type..

38.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 37, wherein the relationship attribute includes a relationship location indicating a file location of the relationship attribute object.

39.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the definition of each attribute for an asset class is implemented in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document, wherein each defined attribute for an asset class comprises a tagged element in the XML document and wherein information for each attribute is embedded in at least one tagged attribute of the tagged element for the attribute.

40.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 32, further comprising:
    a definition of an additional attribute for one asset class generated after an instance for the asset class was generated, wherein defining the additional attribute does not affect instances of the asset class generated before the additional attribute for the asset class was defined.